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No 4 Dr Lore

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An Essay on Ptyalism.

by

Daniel Lachenour.

of

Pennsylvania. 1829.

An Essay on Ptyalism.

"The term Ptyalism, as generally employed, expresses a spitting and flowing of saliva from the mouth occurring in consequence of mercurial action upon the glands, belonging to the salivary system. — Yet, considering the import of the word in a more liberal and expanded sense, I am inclined to concur with Good, and define it as he does, "An involuntary flow of saliva from the mouth", therein, by no means involving an increased secretory action, as a necessary condition, as has been the case with Hooper and a few others; — though perhaps, even in these instances, it has been an oversight, the result of want of reflection, more than design. — For it appears to me, with Good, that both the slavering of Infants and drivelling of Old age, as well as the disagreable habit we so frequently observe in Idiots, of permitting the spittle to escape from their mouths, without an effort to retain it, come, each of them

them entirely within the signification of the term "Ptyalismus" derived as it is from the Greek πτυαλιζω" to spit: and certainly it will not be contended, ~~that~~ that these peculiarities have their existence, only as a consequence of an increased quantity of Saliva being thrown out by the proper glands, - nor on the other hand, denied that they are owing to one of two causes - either defect of power in the labial muscles, as becomes the case in old age, or to want of will, as it is found in Infantcide. - —— But enough of definition - in this case at least, it is not of great or vital importance, whether opinion prevails; yet having formed and advanced one, I thought it incumbent on me, to exhibit the grounds upon which it was built. — - - - - - -

"In primo", Of the Saliva. — — — The Saliva is a fluid secreted from the blood, by three distinct sets of glands, situated at different parts of the Mouth; classed as a whole as the salivary glands: and consisting severally of the Parotid - Sub Lingual and

Sub Maxillary

Sub Maxillary Glands. - - - - Chemists differ in their accounts as to the results obtained by them in analyses of this fluid. according to Berzelius, it consists of but little else besides water. - but seven, in one thousand parts. Dr Brande was enabled, by means of the Voltaic pile, to separate, from it, albumen and an alkali. - according to Professor Hare, it contains alkaline Muriates - Lactate of Soda - mucus and some other animal matter - - - "It is said by Good to contain a small quantity of Phosphate of Lime. - - -

"Pure Saliva" is a slightly viscid fluid, destitute of smell, and of a white colour: or slightly tinged with blue."* Its specific gravity appears to be very little greater than that of water. "It is neither acid nor alkaline, and has, therefore, no effect on blue vegetable colours."* Why the alkali contained in this secretion should impart nothing of its characteristic nature to it, nor induce any change in vegetable blues, is accounted for by Brande, by supposing its combination with the albuminous matter; in which state it

*Henry.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] direct and local stimulation [illegible]

[illegible] "[illegible]

[illegible] the Scriner, [illegible] distinguished. [illegible]

[illegible] part of the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Pipes Negroes [illegible]

[illegible] "[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the Doctor [illegible]

[illegible]

the theatre [illegible] the organ [illegible]

[illegible] the side of which [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

and Dissolving of their scale [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] upon a [illegible]
[illegible] to Mercurial salivation [illegible]
Sweet Spirits, the dulcified [illegible]
if these, and [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] commonly
[illegible] shall com-
mence with the [illegible] The state of [illegible]
[illegible] pills and [illegible] usually [illegible]
internal administration [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible] of
friction with a [illegible] [illegible] inhal-
ation of mercurial fumes or vapours [illegible]
by a Mercurial Enema [illegible] effect, [illegible]
[illegible] produced [illegible] condition
presenting [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible]

[illegible] consider [illegible] as far [illegible] from [illegible] it [illegible] effects [illegible] effect [illegible] particularly [illegible] increase in the [illegible] on the circulation [illegible] of the [illegible] physical [illegible] Being farther [illegible] circumstances [illegible] the [illegible] This state of [illegible] generally vague [illegible] of [illegible] Physician [illegible] demonstration of the [illegible] mentioned – any

[illegible]

[illegible] afterwards [illegible] state of the [illegible] the [illegible] the principal [illegible] or [illegible] in the [illegible] opponent [illegible] we have a development of [illegible]

[illegible] of the retina [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a puriform matter [illegible] ap-parently from the [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] adds [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the patient [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] necessary to [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and hawking during the day [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] heard [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] nature. — a sense of weight and constriction in the chest comes on. the appetite [illegible] [illegible] the strength fails. the mind grows weak and despond-ent. If a Female be the victim, in some alarming hysteric [illegible] — emaciation approaches a general irritability of the intellectual and organic systems shows itself — peevishness and a bad temper — distrust of those around — want

of

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

[illegible]ongue was coated [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the complained steadily [illegible] a painful [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] in the head [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] medical effects and the "Spirit Hydrienus" becoming an inexhaustible [illegible] [illegible] — the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] increased [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] frequently 130 or 140 beats per minute — the stomach [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] front of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] secretion [illegible] of a thin [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] drought from the stomach [illegible] and coughed from the bronchiae. — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] at length [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] and [illegible] of the discharges, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] patient [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] symptom

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Chance neglected to speak

[illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible]

[illegible] "[illegible]" [illegible]

[illegible] air, [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible]

Sulphur in large, and a minute dose Opium

be as constitutional remedy — as local — [illegible] — [illegible]

[illegible] — [illegible] — a great [illegible] of [illegible] — [illegible]

astringent — as an injection, [illegible] — of galls of

sage

* Fever.

Fever

sugar or lime water. Solution of iron. mineral acids in a state of nitration, dilute solution of sugar of lead and as a very neat prescription a decoction of green tea sweetened with honey. The solution of the sugar of lead taints the teeth we are told by Sir Joseph Banks in whose work on Theraapeutics may be found the details of this subject. There is indeed an ample table of antidotes and much room for choice such as the inexperienced man would laugh upon in joy of confidence in the resources held in his assistance. But the cool and wary practitioner will from their very abundance, find ground for distrust, and I have been taught that he who relies least upon these remedies, will suffer least disappointment. In the case given, I had an opportunity of making trial, and will make trial of each and every means and plan and article, in the exception of the solution of sugar of lead. each, in its turn was resorted to until I had left none untried. And that has been unsuccessful and no one can be cited in favor of the [illegible] disease of the teeth.

in the [illegible] and [illegible] coat. There [illegible] in [illegible] was finally forced to the conclusion that in which it had been bestowed there but little was deserved, & that these remedies, though of a trifling utility in cases where nature is in no need of aid [illegible] thanks it for our interference, yet in difficult cases, cases of severity, are most miserably weak and insufficient [illegible] and anxious dyspepsia every symptom [illegible] [illegible] particulars of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] or at least dependent upon its principal [illegible] reason [illegible]

y[illegible]

[illegible] accordingly

-ensed her dissolution and slowly recovering herself from its ravages. — In which the great good resulting [illegible] [illegible] by the opinion of the [illegible] unlikely as [illegible] [illegible] value as a remedy in such cases [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] opium [illegible] upon the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] for the isolated case — [illegible] idea. [illegible] [illegible] one grain of opium and four grains of calomel [illegible] all relief in four hours after took one ounce and a [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] which

continue

endured four weeks a part of which time
she was confined to her bed. The common
remedies were employed. "Tempus edax rerum"
[illegible] at last [illegible] "to the
[illegible] with despatch" was proved [illegible]
[illegible] by the grave of [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the patient will [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible] by a stat
[illegible] complete [illegible]. [illegible] by [illegible] "hand is
[illegible], with the "Dr. Mentalix" occasionally [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] of these few pages will [illegible]
[illegible] my [illegible] [illegible]

at

at the same [illegible] not the suggestion of others, [illegible] in [illegible] is [illegible] that a [illegible] to battle [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] employed under commanders [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], or at least [illegible] [illegible] great [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Note also that when we have a [illegible] equal good with the additional merit of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] thirdly that when [illegible] [illegible] perfectly [illegible] with [illegible], and considerable [illegible] [illegible] where the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] proof forward with a [illegible] [illegible], regardless of [illegible] consequences we should do so.— —

These Conclusions, [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] might and influence [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] greatly

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

and accompanied with a sense of nausea the bad-
-charine matter being formed by, perhaps, a like
assimilating power, as that possessed by the
kidneys in "diabetes". It is relieved by magnesia
and other absorbents, but is most effectually
cured by an Emetic, followed by warm stomachics."
He relates a case which occurred periodically, every
month or six weeks: it generally yields to a
course of Rhubarb taken sometimes in conjunction
with two or three grains of Calomel. "This variety
of Ptyalism is also occasionally the result
of a scorbutic diathesis, but more frequently of
Phthisis: especially in the last stage." - - - -
Chronic Ptyalism - "it appears in many cases
to depend upon morbid habit alone, and is often
very distinctly produced by a long and contin-
-ed use of tobacco, whether chewed or smoked; it
is said by Duaris to follow equally upon an habitual
use of Squills. Warm astringent tonics, as cinchona
and port wine, will frequently be found serviceable
as

local applications: or in the form of gargles: or a few drops of essential oil, particularly that of the cajeput tree (Melaleuca leucodendron) may be taken four or five times a day, on a little sugar."

– "Dribbling. This species depends upon a want of command over the muscles of deglutition: It is found in three states of life: among infants, before the will has acquired a power over the muscles of deglutition: in advanced life, in which the will has lost its power: and in Idiots who possess the power; but seldom or never exercise it. In the first case, time is the best Physician, in the two last, no Physician can be of any avail."*

Finis.

*Good.